



Senator W. Tom Sawyer, Jr.
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Renata Hesse, Trial Attorney
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Dear Ms. Hesse,

I am writing in regards to the proposed settlement negotiated with Microsoft. As the former owner and CEO of a Maine Company that employed over 250 people and relied on negotiations with state and local governments for much of my business, I can appreciate first hand the complexity of dealing with issues that affect the public good. In fact that was a significant factor in why I chose to run for both local and state offices in my home town.

I also have been involved in litigation and know the enormous drain it is on a business, and even its employees, many of whom are also stockholders, both financially and emotionally. That is why I feel it is in the best interest of the public and the government to accept the proposed settlement negotiated with Microsoft and move on. Having read a considerable amount surrounding the proposal, I feel it to be a beneficial arrangement for the general public in several ways.

It provides for the introduction of technology resources into the education system that will be functional and integrated. It offers the potential for widespread benefit because it includes money for teacher training and support as well as sorely needed hardware and software. These have proven to be more critical to the successful integration of technology than the latest version of computers and associated programs.

I also like the matching grants aspect of the proposed foundation. I have always felt in dealing with various nonprofit groups and charities with which I have been involved, that some contribution on the part of the recipient provided for appreciation of the items or services received. It just makes sense to me.

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